The South 40

Junior bull sale is big success

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

There were 40 bulls and 50 heifers at the Red House Junior Bull Sale on March 3.

A breakdown on the sale: 25 Angus averaged $1469, 3 Charolais averaged $817, 1 Santa Gertrudis brought $1,075, 5 Simmental $765 and 6 Polled Hereford $1,096. The 40 head grossed $50,650 or $1266 per head.

There were two breeds represented in the females: 36 Angus averaged $693 and 14 Simmental averaged $630. The 50 head grossed $33,767 or $675 per head.

The top selling Angus bull brought $4,000, top Charolias $1,075, Top Simmental $1,000 and top Polled Hereford $1,300.

Heifers topped out at $1,375; there were 2 Angus bringing this price. The top Simmental brought $700.

* * * *

If you have peach trees, they need to be protected from Peach Leaf Curl. There was a lot last year; therefore, there is the potential for a large amount in 1984. Control by spraying now with Ferbam.

* * * *

Groundhogs can be controlled very satisfactorily with Phostoxin. Use 2 to 4 pellets per hole.

Crumpled newspapers or empty fertilizer sacks should be placed in the opening before sealing with soil to prevent burying the pellets. Open the burrow 1 to 2 days later and re-treat. Early spring treatment is strongly recommended. Phostoxin is a restricted use pesticide -- always store pellets in dry, well ventilated place that is childproof.

* * * *

We are looking for sites to put parasitized cereal larvae about the last week in May. Yes, we can expect another big infestation from the cereal leaf beetle this year.

From the parasitized larvae emerges a small wasp that is very useful biological agent in beetle control.

Wasps do make a difference. According to a 1977 study conducted in 12 states, the parasites were responsible for destroying 60 percent of the beetle population. In one Pennsylvania County, more than a 95 percent control is attributed to the wasps.

If we haven't placed any parasitized larvae on your farm, give us a call. We want these wasps well distributed over the county.

* * * *

Burley tobacco sales at the 3 Virginia Markets was 25.4 million pounds, down 10.4 million from a year ago. Prices were up $8.64 per cwt over a year earlier. $184.83, compared with $176.19 in 1982/83.

* * * *

If you haven't called in indicating you would attend the Area Dark Fire Tobacco Meeting on Tuesday, March 20, please do so by Friday, March 16. It's at the High School Cafeteria at 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

* * * *

Acute Equine Diarrhea Syndrome, also called Potomac Fever, is a concern. The best advice we have for horse owners is:

Control insects (arthropods) during summer months as these insects may be the carrier of the disease.

Observe horses for symptons of illness. These symptons would include depression, lack of appetite, lethargy and fever. Diarrhea is not usually an early sign.

Contact your veterinarian promptly if a horse shows signs suspicious of this disease. Prompt diagnosis and treatment offer the best hope of saving the animal.

If the difference between two eggs is greater than 15 cents, buy the smaller size. If the difference is less than 15 cents, buy the larger size. Exception: Jumbo eggs may be the best buy even if they are 10 to 20 cents greater than large eggs.

* * * *

I've had several to ask about killing an existing alfalfa sod and no-til another planting of alfalfa.

Research at Virginia Tech says, "No." When Alfalfa follows alfalfa, the stand is thinner, less productive and the seeding can actually fail.

A good rotation choice is corn. It will utilize the high nitrogen concentration in the soil as well as any crop you could plant.

Adult Spanish class slated

Adults in Appomattox County will have an opportunity to learn to speak Spanish through a class which will begin Tuesday, March 20 in Room 216 at Appomattox County High School.

Class time will be from 7-9 each Tuesday night for a period of ten weeks. Mrs. Marcella McKay, Spanish teacher at Appomattox County High School, will be the instructor. Tuition cost for the class will be $20.00.

The class is for those adults who have little or no knowledge of the subject. Emphasis in the class will be directed toward speaking skills of the language.

Spanish is fast becoming a second language in the United States and the opportunities for learning the language will be increasing.

"This is our first attempt with adults in Appomattox County," states R.B. Carter, Director of Vocational Education who serves as the coordinator of adult education. "Some interest has been shown making provisions for this class", adds Carter.

Adults who are interested in taking the Spanish class are requested to pre-register by calling the School Board Office at 352-8253 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

FARM PROGRAMS PROTECT AGAINST WEATHER RISKS - In addition to price support loans, target price protection and other benefits, the 1984 acreage reduction programs protect farmers against weather risks.

If a natural disaster reduces crops, farmers who participate in the programs are still eligible for deficiency payments. If favorable weather causes a surplus, program participants can protect their incomes by using price support loans as marketing tools, in addition to the deficiency payments. Deficiency payments are made when market prices fall below target levels.

To take advantage of this protection, farmers must sign up between now and March 16 and comply with acreage reduction requirements of 30 percent for wheat, 10 percent for feed grains and extra long staple cotton, and 25 percent for upland cotton and rice. The wheat program contains an optional 10 to 20 percent land division with a payment-in-kind equal to 75 percent of the farm's program yield.

Unless participation in the wheat program is relatively high, supplies could reach record levels and wheat prices could decline. USDA officials expect this year's ending stocks of wheat to be about 1.4 billion bushels, down 8 percent from a year earlier but still considerably above a desirable level of 1 billion bushels.

Cropland removed from production by the programs to balance supply with demand will be placed in an acreage conservation reserve.

We encourage program participation to place their more erosive land in the conservation reserve and take advantage of the 90 percent cost-sharing in the ACP for establishing long-term cover crops or planting trees on these areas. Farmers should apply for the acreage reduction programs early to avoid a last minute rush.

636 POUNDS OF FLUE TOBACCO TO BE FORFEITED - Active tobacco producers can request flue-cured tobacco from the flue-cured tobacco forfeiture pool. The request must be made at the ASCS office between March 1 and March 26. There is 636 pounds in the pool and in order for a producer to be able to receive any of this poundage, a written requestmust be filed at the ASCS office on a form that will be provided.

If you have any questions concerning the tobacco allotment and/or forfeiture procedures, you should contact the ASCS office.

USDA REDUCES 1984 MARKETING QUOTAS FOR BURLEY TOBACCO — The national marketing quota for 1984 crop burley tobacco will be 583 million pounds, 10 percent less than that for the 1983 crop.

According to USDA the reduction is the maximum permitted under law, and is needed to adjust the total supply.

When adjustment for over and undertakings are taken into account, effective farm quotas for 1984 are expected to total 708 million pounds, about 10 percent more than last year.

Happiness Is 4-H

By FRANK H. SWEET
EXTENSION AGENT

4-H presentation workshops are being held each afternoon this week and next week in the cafeteria of Appomattox Elementary School. The workshops will begin at 3:30 p.m. each day and end about 5:00 p.m. 4-H members wishing to participate should bring a note from home giving them permission to stay. Teenage 4-Hers will be assisting with the workshop and helping younger 4-Hers plan their presentations.

* * *

The county 4-H presentation program will be Saturday morning, March 24, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Appomattox Elementary School. This program will involve 4-Hers aged 9-13. Older 4-Hers and adult volunteers will serve as judges and announcers for the program. Parents are encouraged to attend in support of their young people.

* * *

4-H members involved with the Interstate Exchange Program will sponsor a dance at ACHS on Friday night, March 16, from 8:00 - 11:30 p.m. Music will be provided by the VICA Clubs at ACHS. Proceeds from the dance will be used to help finance the 4-H Exchange trip to Texas this coming summer. All ACHS students are invited to attend.

* * *

The Consumerama Judging Team and the Egg Grading Team have begun practice for their spring's competition. Other 4-H judging programs will be starting within the next month. Judging programs help young people learn to make decisions on their own and learn to work together with other young people their own age.

* * *

A first time state 4-H Intermediate Congress for 12-13 year old 4-Hers will be held June 10-15 at the Northern Virginia 4-H Center. Special learning sessions as well as social activities will be held during the Congress. Appomattox will have the opportunity to select one delegate to the Intermediate Congress and one alternate. 4-Hers aged 12-13 may contact the Extension Office for complete details about this program.

* * *

District level 4-H competition for teenage 4-Hers will be held Saturday, April 14 at Appomattox County High School. Senior age 4-Hers from a 19 county area will participate in the program at ACHS. The Appomattox 4-H Achievers community club will provide the luncheon for the District Contest as one of their fund raising activities.

* * *

4-H project records are most important for each member. Each 4-Her is encouraged to work hard to complete at least one project booklet during the year. Completed projects may be turned in at any time but must be completed by October 1.

Satisfying experience

Bread making

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent

(NOTE: This is Part I of a two-part article on Bread Making.)

People who have discovered the joy of baking yeast bread will tell you that it is one of the most satisfying experiences in the kitchen. For many bakers, kneading the soft dough is a lovely sensation and a sort of relaxing therapy. For others, the glorious moment comes when the buttered bite of fresh warm bread comes from the oven with the yeasty aroma. The homemaker then has a sense of delicious achievement.

The staff of life is a supremely satisfying food. It is made of five basic ingredients which, through handiwork and sometimes a little magic, interplay to build a wholesome loaf. Those five basic ingredients include yeast, flour, liquid, sugar and fats. You may also add other special ingredients to enhance and give variety to the loaf of bread. This week I will discuss yeast and flours.

Good News For Homemakers — HOME ECONOMICS

YEAST

The yeast that goes in a loaf of bread is a microscopic plant, when activated by warm water, gives off bubbles of carbon dioxide that make the dough rise (leaven). Yeast is most common available in granular form called active dry yeast and sold in packages of about one tablespoon each. It can be stored for about a year in a cool, dry place. Please note that there are expiration dates printed on the packages of yeast. Yeast is also sold in a compressed cake. The quality is the same, but the yeast in this form is much more perishable and must be refrigerated. It usually lasts up to two weeks. Test by

[Continued on Page 8]

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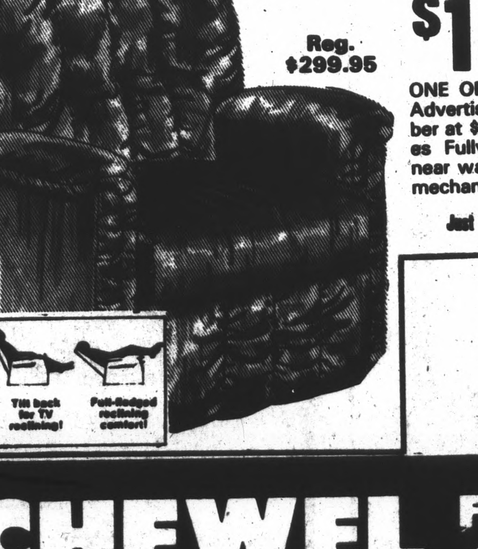

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